

Florida, Michigan and Utah Recognized as 2014 Superfund *Excellence in State Engagement Supporting Reuse* Award Recipients

The states of Florida, Michigan and Utah are the 2014 recipients of the Superfund Redevelopment Program's newly established "[Excellence in State Engagement Supporting Reuse](#)" award. The award recognizes states that have championed Superfund site reuse. Jim Woolford, director of the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, announced the awards at the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials' mid-year meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on April 23, 2014. The three states, whose reuse achievements follow, are the first to receive this award.

- Florida, through its Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), has demonstrated long-term support and encouragement of Superfund site reuse. The Florida DEP also facilitates a partnership with the State's water management districts. That partnership currently implements groundwater institutional controls across the State's southern portion, which leverages existing federal and State regulations to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Florida's support of appropriate site reuse and its partnership with EPA has paved the way for Superfund redevelopment. The State has more than 50 Superfund sites in reuse or continued use. One hundred and fifteen businesses and organizations on these sites employ 3,470 people, contribute an estimated \$217 million in annual employment income and have about \$113 million in estimated annual sales. All of these numbers are the highest of any state in the Southeast.
- The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has been a steadfast supporter of reuse activities and has taken the next step to make them a core part of how they do business. They recently revised the name of their Superfund sites program to "Remediation and Redevelopment" to "create a future where Michigan's contaminated properties are reliably managed, revitalized, and the environment is protected." This commitment to the productive and protective reuse and revitalization of Superfund properties is self-evident and already yielding success stories. In Michigan alone, there are more than 20 Superfund sites in reuse or continued use. Twenty-six businesses and organizations at these sites employ 560 people, contribute an estimated \$40 million in annual employment income and have about \$49 million in estimated annual sales.
- The State of Utah has undertaken significant steps to proactively engage with EPA, local governments and other stakeholders to support Superfund site reuse. Over the years, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) has encouraged its staff to play an active role in Superfund reuse-related activities. As a result of that encouragement, UDEQ staff have worked closely with site stakeholders to consider, facilitate and implement reuse opportunities. These efforts are already yielding benefits. The State has more than 20 Superfund sites that are in reuse or continued use. Eighty-three businesses and organizations at these sites employ 2,673 people, contribute an estimated \$141 million in annual employment income and have about \$423 million in estimated annual sales. All of these numbers are the highest of any state in the Rocky Mountains and Plains Region.

The award is part of the Superfund Redevelopment Program's efforts to recognize stakeholders who have been instrumental in helping ensure sites return to productive use. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative's (SRI's) creation. Through SRI, EPA has helped more than 700 communities reclaim and reuse thousands of acres of formerly contaminated land. Communities have gained, among other uses, industrial parks, office space, recreational facilities, ecological habitat, housing and shopping centers.